

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/809,202

Examiner

Ha D. Ho

Applicant(s)

DEGOWSKE ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/17/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 25 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 05/25/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This Office Action is responsive to Applicant's Response filed on 10/17/05.
2. Claims 1, 10 and 15 are generic and allowable. Accordingly, the restriction requirement as to the encompassed species is hereby withdrawn and claim 8, directed to the non-elected species, is no longer withdrawn from consideration since all of the claims to this species depend from or otherwise include each of the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the linked species, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable generic linking claim(s) be presented in a continuation or divisional application, such claims may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

3. Claims 1-21 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for a differential system as defined by the limitations of claims 1, 10 and 15, including a pair of pinion gears and a pair of side gears rotatably supported in a rotatable case, and an electromagnetic actuator having a movable coil or an electrically operable coupling including a movable electromagnet, wherein one of the side gears is selectively interconnected with the case in response to the movement of the moveable coil or the moveable electromagnet.

The references to Kaplan et al (US 6733411), Teraoka (US 6796412), Ishikawa (US 6832972), and Kawamoto et al (JP 2221743) show a differential gear system having an electromagnetic coupling for locking the differential gear when the speed differentiation occurs. None of these references shows a coil/electromagnet of the electromagnetic coupling being movable for coupling the differential side gear to the differential housing.

The reference to Kuivamaki (US 5853165) shows a chain hoist with a clutch adjustable by means of an electromagnetic brake 77 including an electromagnet 78, which is axially displaceable in the brake housing 22. There is no suggestion/motivation to combine this reference to the above references.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Cited Prior Art

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Kaplan et al (US 6733411), Teraoka (US 6796412), Ishikawa (US 6832972), and Kawamoto et al (JP 2221743) show a differential gear system having an electromagnetic coupling. Kuivamaki (US 5853165) shows a chain hoist with a clutch adjustable by means of an electromagnetic brake. Ahles (US 4150385) shows a point recorder having an electromagnet that has a moveable coil.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ha D. Ho whose telephone number is 571-272-7091. If attempts

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to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HDH
(571) 272-7091
December 2, 2005

HAHO
HAHO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3681 12/02/05